

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 6, 2004

Reply to Attn of: GG

TO: Distribution

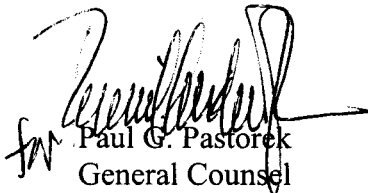
FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the 2004 Black Tie Winter Event Sponsored by the NOVA Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, on February 7, 2004

On February 7, 2004, the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA-NOVA) will hold their annual black-tie formal winter event: The Valentine Ball. This event will be widely attended by approximately 600 people from a wide variety of areas, including officials from other Federal agencies, members of the communications and electronics industry, and members of the Armed Forces. The event, which includes an awards presentation and speech, will allow an exchange of information between a variety of people involved in government communications and electronics matters. The per-person cost is estimated to be \$60.00.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). I have determined it to be in NASA's best interest for NASA personnel to attend the event in their personal capacities. I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA personnel and their accompanying spouses or other guests may accept free attendance, food, refreshments, and entertainment furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the event.


Paul G. Pastorek
General Counsel